

## THE RECREATION CLUB

WISHES MEMBERS

A HAPPY

NEW YEAR

THE STAGE IS SET FOR THE 1962  
GALA BALL

to be held at the  
T.I. BALLROOM OLDBURY

Friday, 16th February from 8-0 p.m. to 1-0 a.m.

LES WRIGHT, the Rhythm Pianist and his Band will provide the music and part of the programme will be Old Time dances.

Tickets are 5/- each and may be obtained from Group Representatives or the Personnel Dept.

### ● Solutions to Crossword

*Across:* 1. Compliments of, 9. The, 10. Season, 11. Nuts, 14. Dingley Dell, 17. Wine, 18. Ear, 20. Samba, 21. Alpine, 24. Orion, 25. Aged, 26. Panto, 27. Ash, 28. Treble, 31. Lotus, 33. Loo, 34. Smug, 35. Goose, 37. Silent, 39. Aunt, 40. Holy, 41. Leisure, 42. Escort.

### ● Answers to Quiz

1. 17th Century, in 1670 to be precise.
2. America.
3. 1932.
4. Twelve.
5. Charles Wesley.
6. The boar.
7. The first person to set foot in the house on New Year's day, it is customary for the First Footer to be a dark-haired man.

*Down:* 2. Oxen, 3. Puss In Boots, 4. Mistletoe Bough, 5. Ninny, 6. Slate, 7. Fat, 8. Stir, 12. Udal, 13. Sleigh, 14. Dim, 15. Near, 16. Lane, 17. Walnut, 19. Redeemer, 22. Passion, 23. Apples, 29. Elm, 30. Log, 32. Users, 34. Star, 35. Guys, 36. Otto, 38. Ice, 39. Ale.

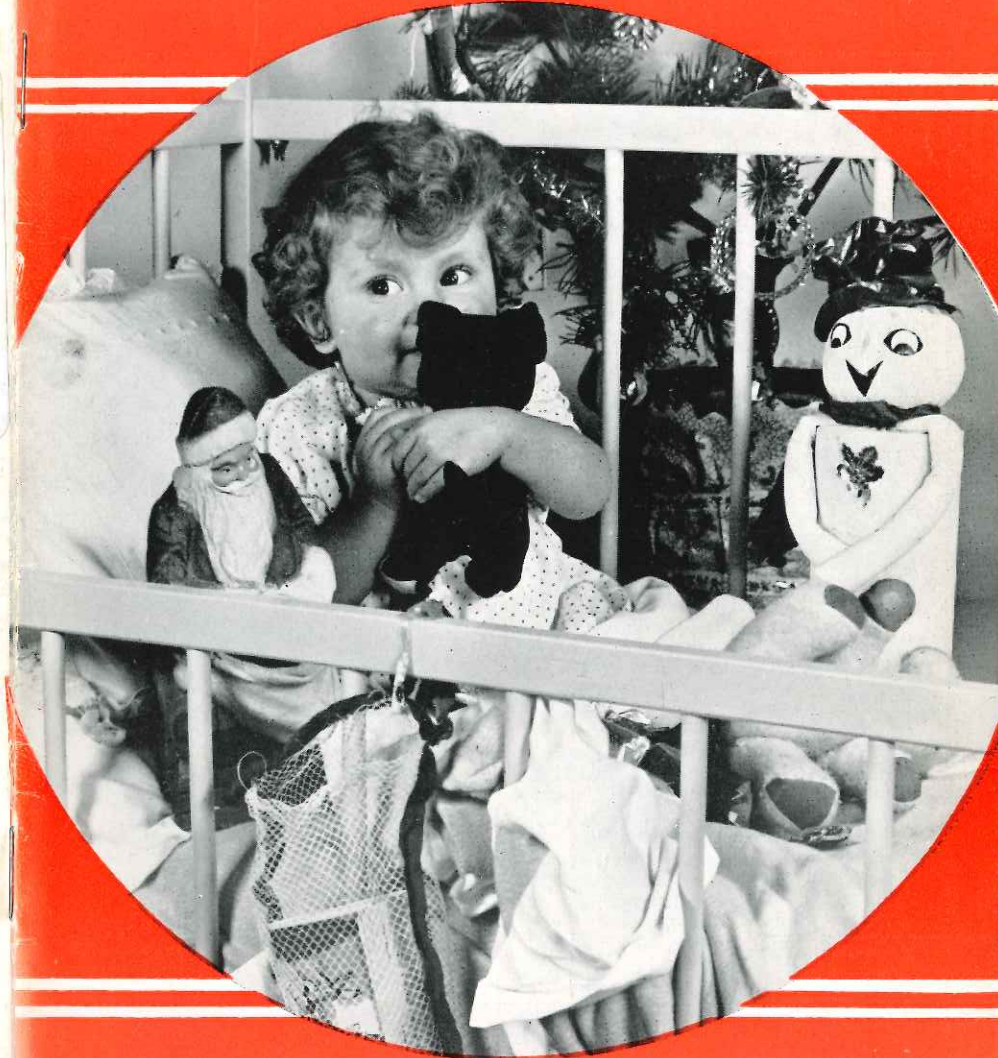
8. "A child that's born on Christmas Day is fair and wise, and good and gay."
9. St. Nicholas.
10. St. Lucia's Day.
11. Put up decorations on Christmas Eve, and taken them down on January 12th, which is Twelfth Night.
12. Mistletoe.
13. The Mass of Christ.
14. Charles Dickens, and Tiny Tim.

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# Chance

## COMMENTS

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DECEMBER — JANUARY 1962



# Chance

## COMMENTS

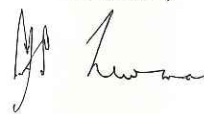
The MAGAZINE of Chance Brothers Limited, published in alternate months for the interest, entertainment and information of all employees of the firm.

### Christmas Message

Your Editor has asked me whether I would like to send a message to readers of *Chance Comments* for inclusion in the Christmas issue. This I gladly do.

My best wishes to you all for a joyful Christmas and may 1962 bring to you all peace, health and happiness in your work, or in your retirement, and in your leisure hours.

Sincerely yours,



Managing Director

### THIS MONTH'S COVER

Every year we try to introduce a little of the Christmas spirit into the December issue of *Chance Comments* and it is in keeping with this that the cover photograph was chosen. The picture used in the previous issue was the Three Counties Bridge over the River Dane, Cheshire, and it was identified by Edward Caine, Blown and Pressed.

EDITOR A. OGDEN

#### CORRESPONDENTS

##### Blown and Pressed

Inspection F. O'CONNOR  
Pressed Process  
Cathodes A. SUTTON  
Vello O. MCKENNA  
Warehouses G. GRIGG

##### Flat Glass

Fiesta MRS. GILGESS  
Rolled Plate R. E. EVANS  
Rolled Plate  
Warehouse MISS W. WALKER  
Seven Storey

Laboratory W. H. D. LILLEY

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Fitters H. BEECH  
Drawing Office  
and Offices S. SCRIVEN  
Vehicle Repairs H. COSNETT

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Sales F. TAYLOR  
Typing MISS M. VICKERS  
Buying and  
Stationery MISS I. GROVES  
Wages A. E. CARTWRIGHT  
Stores D. R. KIRKWOOD  
Old Hall MISS V. HICKLING  
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##### BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS

Glasgow H. MACLEOD  
London G. H. ELPHEE  
Malvern MISS D. CLARE

## It's Christmas

The familiar complaint that Christmas has become "commercialized," implying a more secularized outlook is not supported by history. The significance of the Feast of the Nativity is more widely understood and appreciated than it has been for several centuries. This appreciation is especially noticeable in the capitals and many big cities where civic recognition is accorded by the use of religious symbols. Also the choice of reproductions of religious pictures to illustrate Christmas greeting cards is not the waning of an old custom but the growth of a preference which was not evident in the early history of Christmas cards.

Although references are sometime made to "old-fashioned Christmas cards" the oldest card to be produced and sold as a commercial product is only a little over a century old. This illustrated greeting was the work of a well-known artist, John Calcott Horsley, R.A., on the suggestion of Sir Henry Cole. The design was lithographed on small cards in 1843 and about a thousand copies were sold from the offices of the London publishers. The retail price was one shilling. Recently, a copy of this card was sold for £50.

In most countries, Santa Claus distributes presents to the children after they have fallen asleep on Christmas Eve. But in several countries on the continent of Europe, especially in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands, he comes on his name day, December 6th, the feast of St. Nicholas. This patron saint of children, St. Nicholas, or Klaus, was Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor in the fourth century. During his life and afterwards he earned a growing reputation for secretly making gifts to children and the needy.

A carol which has leapt into universal popularity only in the last decade is *Silent Night, Holy Night*. It was first sung as a motet in the village church of Hochburg in Upper Austria at Christmas 1818. The words were written by the parish priest, Father Joseph Mohr, and the music composed by Franz Xavier Gruber, sacristan,

local schoolmaster and musician who with his Italian guitar led the choir in the singing. Both Father Mohr and Herr Gruber were long dead before the compelling melody attracted attention beyond the boundaries of Austria and Germany.

The pealing of bells after watch-night services to "ring in" the New Year is a modern practice less than a century old. In earlier days it was the popular practice to follow the midnight mass of Christmas with a peal from the church belfry. The practice continued in England long after the Reformation, until the Cromwellian regime when church bells were silenced by law and many torn from their turrets to be melted down.

Although evergreens have decked houses and churches in the British Isles for centuries during Christmastide, the Christmas Tree, as such, had no part in the festive setting until the beginning of the last century. The earliest record of this German importation is of an "illuminated tree" seen at a children's party given by a member of Queen Caroline's court in 1821. But it was under the influence of the Prince Consort that it became popular in Victorian Days. Charles Dickens referred to it as "the new German toy" In the Manchester area where German immigrants were successfully establishing themselves in business, the Christmas tree ceremonial began to grow in popularity from 1840 onwards.

The turkey cannot claim to have any part in the Christmas festivities of olden times. The turkey was not seen on any table in Europe until the latter part of the sixteenth century. At that time, and for long afterwards, the main dish of the Christmas feast was the "roast beef of old England."

Several European monarchs were crowned at Christmas, for it was customary for coronations to take place during the great feasts of the Church. King Stephen of England was crowned in Westminster Abbey on his name day, December 26th, the Feast of St. Stephen in the year 1135.

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## LONG SERVICE AWARDS



DENNIS A. PARRY, BOILER SHOP, 25 YEARS 30TH SEPTEMBER. (WATCH)



WILLIAM PARKES, ROLLED PLATE WAREHOUSE, 45 YEARS 2ND OCTOBER. (WATCH)



HILDA NEVILLE, BLOWN AND PRESSED WAREHOUSE, 45 YEARS 4TH OCTOBER (WATCH)



MAUDE CLEAVER, WAGES OFFICE (NOW TRANSFERRED TO TRAFFIC OFFICE), 25 YEARS 6TH OCTOBER. (CASH)



WILLIAM H. MORALEE, SECURITY, 25 YEARS 7TH OCTOBER. (CASH)



ERNEST J. EVANS, BLOWN AND PRESSED WAREHOUSE, 25 YEARS 14TH OCTOBER. (CLOCK)



EDNA HODSON, MICRO DEPARTMENT, 25 YEARS 19TH OCTOBER. (CASH)



EDGAR J. SELLEY, BLOWN AND PRESSED MELTING, 25 YEARS 23RD OCTOBER (CLOCK)



CISSIE HARPER, BLOWN AND PRESSED WAREHOUSE, 25 YEARS 26TH OCTOBER (CASH)

**Note**  
MRS. M. BANNISTER, GLASGOW WORKS, COMPLETED 25 YEARS SERVICE ON 7TH OCTOBER. (CASH).



DAVID RAITT, MILLWRIGHTS, 25 YEARS 2ND NOVEMBER (WATCH)



WILLIAM A. KING, FITTER IN BLOWN AND PRESSED DEPARTMENT, 25 YEARS 9TH NOVEMBER. (CASH)

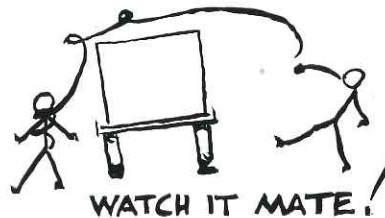
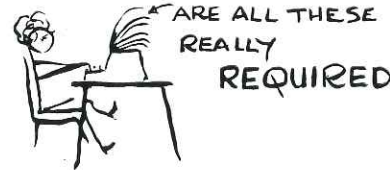


WILFRED MAYBURY, PROCESS DEVELOPMENT, 25 YEARS 19TH NOVEMBER (CASH)

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT THIS CHRISTMAS

by L. G. Barton, Secretary to the Suggestions Scheme, Sketches by Vera Hickling.

YOU will already have read the posters announcing a "Special Subject Competition" being held to stimulate interest in package design and means of transporting our products to the customer. When you come to think of it, any sort of package or transport adds nothing to the real value of a product but simply adds to its cost. No doubt in a competitive market

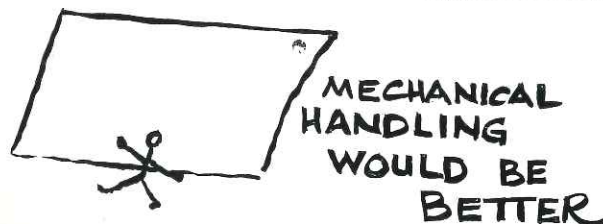


an attractive package has a selling feature but there is no reason why an attractive design could not be incorporated into an economical pack.

The first loose load of Rolled glass was despatched from Spon Lane in 1947. Today 40% of the Rolled glass is transported to the customer as a loose load.

Just think what this would mean in terms of crates or cases; where would we be able to store them whilst waiting transport?

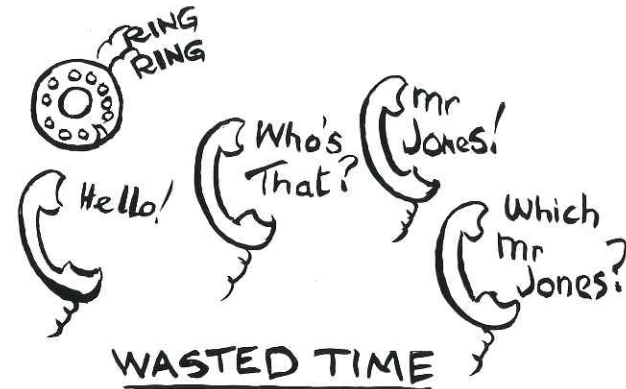
To help you put forward ideas for the competition we suggest you bear in mind the following questions:



1. What is the purpose of the package. Is it really necessary?
2. How is the package filled and what sort of transport is being used?
3. Where is the packing done now. Could it be done in a better place?

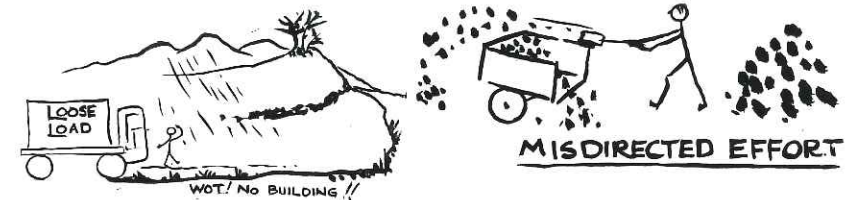
Why not have a go? You might break through with an idea which will pay well under the "double the normal award payment."

During the year 1961 the number of suggestions received will be an all time record. Unfortunately some of the ideas put forward were not quite the sort we wanted. Things such as broken electric light bulbs, door handles, leaking taps, repairs to mats etc., should be reported

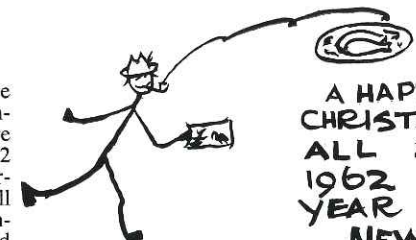


through the usual departmental channels. We want the sort of ideas which will reduce costs. The adopted suggestions which pay both the Company and the Suggestor well are those which will:—

- Increase the sales and uses of our products.
- Improve production efficiency on existing processes.
- Improve methods of distribution.
- Improve office procedures and clerical methods.
- Reduce scrap and loss.
- Eliminate manual handling.
- Save material, labour and power.
- Improve the utilisation of floor space.



There are many more subjects just as important and we are convinced that in 1962 employees will put forward ideas which will help us to remain competitive in the world markets.



We shall soon be thinking of New Year resolutions. How about these:

For Employees: I will think of a better way.

For the Suggestions Committee and Management:

We will deal with suggestions a little quicker and keep suggestors informed of progress if trials etc., are necessary to prove an idea.



# Goodwill Session

*Silence, please, for the annual meeting!  
Hark to the messages of greeting:*

Here's to all in the two-and-sixes,  
Licking away at their drinks-on-stickses,  
Here's to shoppers in dripping macs,  
Here's to sheikhs in their Cadillacs,  
To baby-sitters and non-stop knitters,  
And the National Union of Girdle-fitters,  
To old men sighing for what they have missed,  
And astronauts on the waiting list!



Greetings to all who sweat and struggle  
In Piddlehinton and Auchenshuggle,  
In Wagga Wagga and Symons Yat,  
Here's to Glossop and Medicine Hat,  
Here's to Yeti—beast or wraith?  
To Acker Bilk and to Adam Faith,  
To Bessie Braddock, the Earl of Home,  
And lots we'd list if we had more room.  
A health, instead, to the scooter clubs,  
To barmaids giving advice in pubs,  
To all who strive to improve their stations  
By honest toil, or by permutations!  
Greetings alike to friends and foes,  
To saints and sinners (and even those  
Who eat their chips on a crowded bus),  
To Alcoholics Anonymous,  
To SACEUR and SACLANT, SHAPE and SEATO,  
To statesmen trumping each other's veto,  
To the Emperor of the Golden Sword,  
And the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.



Here's a health to the Household Names  
Picking up guineas in panel games,  
Here's to the Bards at the next Eisteddfod,  
Here's a health to the Duke of Beddfod,  
Here's to the beatniks, bless their whiskers,  
To Pearly Kings and to Golden Diskers,  
Butchers and bakers, lipstick-makers,  
Take-over men and undertakers,  
Trimmers and tenters, twisters, twiners,  
Levellers, bevellers, coopers, miners,  
Seamers, beamers and bummarees,  
And dimpled typists with glossy knees  
And eyelids glowing with frosted blue  
And hair like corn that the wind blows through—  
Where did I get to?—And a health  
To Common Market and Commonwealth,  
To jockeys, and janitors of baths,  
The General Council of Osteopaths,  
To cheesecake-graders and physicists,  
To bishops and laryngologists,\*  
To all who have not yet seen "Ben-Hur,"  
To those who suffer from flavour-blur,  
To Mums whose washing is whiter than white,  
And Mums whose pastry is lighter than light!  
And raise your tankard, and lift your cup  
To all with the power to blow us up.



Here's to the all-mixed-up-inside,  
The newly-born and the newly-dyed,  
The alderman with teenage bride,  
The journalist with his scoop denied,  
And all our spies who have not been spied,  
And all those citizens, far and wide,  
Whose cisterns dribble, whose cars collide,  
Who walk their dogs with a modest pride,  
And a thousand others, unclassified—

*Peace and good will this Christmastide!*

\*And also, since the Editor insists, to otorhinolaryngologists.





THE BEST PRINT SUBMITTED WAS BY RON MOORE. HIS SON WAS THE MODEL.



## Photographic Competition



GEORGE RADLEY WON THE "LANDSCAPE" SECTION.



GEORGE RADLEY ALSO WON THE "PERSONAL" SECTION.

RON LAUNCHBURY'S INDOOR PICTURE OF RAGLEY HALL WON THE "GENERAL" SECTION.



THE "ARCHITECTURAL" SECTION WAS WON BY RON LAUNCHBURY WITH THIS PICTURE OF THE VILLAGE OF WIGMORE NEAR LUDLOW.







Pennytop, the elf, grinned at his friend.  
 "It's nearly Christmas, Pip!" he said.  
 "Fancy telling me that!" replied Pip crossly.  
 "What do you think I'm doing if I'm not getting ready for Christmas?"  
 "Well, you might look cheerful about it," said Pennytop. "I am!"  
 "You're not doing anything to help," groaned Pip. "And we've never been so behind. We'll never be ready in time for Christmas."  
 "In that case we'll be ready in good time for next Christmas!" giggled Pennytop.  
 Pip bustled off into the kitchen.  
 "Do tell me the time, Pennytop," he called over his shoulder.  
 Pennytop danced up to the mantelpiece and peered at the clock. He couldn't see very well, so he lifted it down to have a better look.  
 CRASH! Pennytop had dropped the clock! There it lay on the floor, with wheels and springs and screws all over the place.  
 "What shall we do now?" cried Pip. "That's the only clock we have!"  
 "I am sorry, Pip," said Pennytop miserably. "I'll go and buy a new one right away. We did need one," he added, cheering up. "It'll be nice to have it for Christmas. I'll get one that we can pop a sprig of holly on top, like a cuckoo clock!"  
 "I've always wanted a cuckoo clock!" cried Pip, clapping his hands.  
 Pennytop rushed off to the clock shop in the village and told the old watchmender that he wanted to buy a cuckoo clock.  
 "Not one left," said the old man. "Sold out for Christmas."



"Choose one for yourself, then. I must get my repair jobs done before I close," said the old man. "Don't forget to leave the money on the counter," he added, trotting off to his workshop.

Pennytop looked at every clock in the shop.  
 "But we must have a new clock," said Pennytop.

Pip would be so disappointed if he couldn't have a cuckoo clock. Then Pennytop found one hiding behind a tall grandfather clock. It was marked ten shillings, which seemed very cheap, but the elf picked it up, popped down the money and scampered home with it.

The cuckoo in the clock cheerfully shouted out the hours all night. He kept the two elves awake and when at last they did go to sleep they didn't wake up until late on Christmas Eve morning.

Pip was upset, until Pennytop had an idea how to make him happy again. The elf pushed back the fingers of the clock until it seemed to be two hours earlier than it really was!

"Thank goodness!" breathed Pip thankfully, when Pennytop pointed out the time again. "I must have been seeing wrong."

Pip trotted out to do a little shopping and Pennytop settled down in a chair.

"Lots of time now," he grinned.

"Oh, no there isn't!" snapped a voice.

The cuckoo had jumped out of the clock and was standing large and cross in front of the elf.

"You have made me very bad tempered!" stormed the bird. "It upsets my tummy for days when my works are turned back like that. Now I'll go and upset everybody else!"

With a furious squawk the bird flew off through the window. He fluttered through the tree tops until he came to the village. He flew silently into every house and altered every clock he saw! Some he put on and others he put back; he made every clock in the village tell a different time.

Things began to go wrong at once.

The shops shut too soon and left the busy shoppers without the things they wanted. Six lots of mince pies were burnt up by being left in the ovens too long. One Christmas Eve party wasn't half ready when the guests arrived. Even they came at all the wrong times.

The Wise Woman was on her way to see her friends, Pennytop and Pip, taking her Christmas gift for them.

"I must call at the watchmenders for my clock," she said. "I shall be glad to see my cuckoo again."

Just then she heard a great squawking and a fluttering of wings coming from the top of the church steeple. She looked up and there, fighting the weathercock like mad, was an indignant wooden cuckoo.

"That's my cuckoo!" cried the Wise Woman. "What are you doing up there, you bad bird? You should be at the clock menders, being mended."

The cuckoo flew down with a joyous CUCKOO and perched on the Wise Woman's shoulder.

"I am mended," he squeaked. "Some elf took me and put me back TWO HOURS! So I've upset everybody else's clocks, too," he added, looking rather ashamed of himself. "But the weathercock wouldn't let me change the church clock."

So everybody put their clocks and watches right by the church clock and the Wise Woman took the cuckoo with her to see Pennytop and Pip. They thought that she had bought back their cuckoo and there was such a lot of explaining to do! Pennytop felt very silly because he had thought the repair price of the cuckoo clock was the actual price of the clock.

"I'd better change this big box of chocolates into a cuckoo clock if you want one so badly," smiled the Wise Woman.

And so she did!

## WE LIVE AND LEARN

### CHRISTMAS QUIZ

by Dinah Lawrence

How much do you know about Christmas? By answering the questions below you will find out. You may, of course, know all the answers but if not, then you'll learn a little more about this greatest festival of the year by turning to the back cover where the correct replies to the questions are given.

1. The traditional Christmas dinner would not be the same without Christmas Pudding. Do you know in which century the pudding, in its present form, became known. Was it the 15, 16, 17, 18, or 19th Century?  
\* \* \*
2. Turkey is the bird we think of at this time of the year, but do you know from which continent it came to us?  
\* \* \*
3. King George V began the custom of the Reigning Monarch giving a fire-side talk by radio on Christmas Day: Do you know in what year the first broadcast was given?  
\* \* \*
4. How many days are there to the Christmas season?  
\* \* \*
5. Who wrote the words of that favourite carol, "Hark The Herald Angels Sing?"  
\* \* \*
6. The head of a certain animal was considered a great delicacy at old-time Christmas feasts. Do you know the animal?  
\* \* \*
7. What is the First Footing?  
\* \* \*
8. What according to the old rhyme is the character of a child born on Christmas day?  
\* \* \*
9. Father Christmas is known by a different name in some European Countries. Do you know what it is?  
\* \* \*
10. In Sweden, December 13th marks the beginning of Christmastide. What is this day called?  
\* \* \*
11. Do you know on which night, according to tradition, decorations should be put up, and on which night they should be taken down?  
\* \* \*
12. What used to be known as the Golden Bough?  
\* \* \*
13. What does the word "Christmas" really mean?  
\* \* \*
14. Who wrote "A Christmas Carol," and who was the character in the book who said "God Bless us everyone?"  
\* \* \*



# Jottings of shorter items and employees' contributions

## HOLIDAY FOR PENSIONERS

Arrangements have been made for a party of the Company's pensioners to have a holiday at Weston-super-Mare from 11th to 18th May, 1962, at very much reduced hotel charges.

\* \* \*

## MIND YOUR TOES!

To encourage employees to wear safety shoes and thus reduce the number of foot injuries the Company makes a subsidy grant of 5s. 0d. per pair for each employee in each year ending 1st April.

Purchase by deduction from wages may be made as and when an adult has been employed by the Company for at least three days and by an apprentice when he first commences work.

The minimum rates for weekly payment are 5s. 0d. for adults and 2s. 6d. for apprentices.

Men's safety footwear is stocked in the General Stores and women's in the Personnel Department. There really is a wide range of smart styles.

\* \* \*

## HERE'S A GLASS

The party spirit is infectious and all good hostesses know just how to create a gay atmosphere that will keep the guests happy! A plentiful supply of glasses is another vital ingredient for a good party—the attractive stemmed glasses shown here are designed to take champagne but they won't complain at being used for a less grand "brew." They are made by Chance Brothers in all three designs, 'Swirl,' 'Calypso' or 'Hellenic' (shown below).

## THEY ARE GRATEFUL

Last month we reported that the Employees Charity Fund had distributed



£816 during the past four years. Each of the benefiting organisations has expressed thanks to our employees and the following are extracts from some of the letters received.

*West Bromwich Association for the Physically Handicapped*... we were delighted to receive the sum of £5. 5s. 0d. and we will expend this in the ever widening work on behalf of our physically handicapped friends which includes a week's holiday, Christmas parties, social activities and helping in cases of need or emergency.

*Oldbury Association for Civilian Disabled*... our very sincere thanks for the generous donation of £5. 5s. 0d. which will be used to provide outings for local disabled people.

*Smethwick Cripples Welfare Fund*... we do all we possibly can to bring some comfort and happiness into the lives of handicapped people. It you could witness the happiness which the cripples show on the day of their Annual Outing you would be more than repaid for your goodness.

*Cheshire Foundation Homes for the Sick*... we do hope that when the Wolverhampton Home is completed you will accept an invitation to visit it and to see to what very good use your donation of £10. 10s. 0d. has been put.

\* \* \*

## BOUQUETS

Dr. R. E. Bastick, Manager of the Laboratory, has been elected to the Office of President of the Midland Branch of the Science Masters Association.

\* \* \*

No. 10 Group comprising Traffic, Transport, Mixing, Cleaners and Security, invited eight children from one of the Smethwick Children's Homes to the Group's children's Christmas party held in the Canteen on 9th December.

\* \* \*

Horace Botfield completed his apprenticeship as a bricklayer recently. His records show that throughout the five years of his learning period he was not late on any day.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Thirty-three prints were submitted by seven entrants. A number of these were of the "snapshot" variety but they were rejected because of the faults to which I have drawn attention on previous occasions, for example, lack of a theme, poor viewpoint, fussy background. By judicious use of the viewfinder a better selection of picture can often be made. Obviously the photographer who enlarges from his original negative has an advantage because he has a further opportunity of selecting only part of the picture for the final presentation. It should be pointed out however that the photographer who takes colour transparencies has no such choice but in spite of this, many well composed pictures of this kind can be seen in the exhibitions, so that even the snapshotter can with care, produce a presentable picture.

The following are the Judge's choice:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Best print    | Mr. R. W. Moore,<br>Laboratory                    |
| 2. Landscape     | Mr. G. Radley,<br>Maintenance and<br>Construction |
| 3. Architectural | Mr. R. Launchbury,<br>Cost Office                 |
| 4. General       | Mr. R. Launchbury                                 |
| 5. Personal      | Mr. G. Radley                                     |

Each of the entrants submitted a number of prints and had obviously taken pains to produce presentable pictures. Mr. Moore's photographs stand out but he has had the advantage of some professional training and to be fair to the amateurs, only one of his prints was chosen. Mr. Launchbury is making good progress and his picture of the dining table is good technically. The personal picture by Mr. Radley was chosen for its technical quality and for the happy expressions on the faces of the two individuals.

The judge hopes that the rejected entrants will not be too discouraged. After all another judge might have come to an entirely different conclusion and even the best of judges make their mistakes!

## Editor's note

Appreciations is expressed to Dr. R. E. Bastick who judged the Competition and made this helpful report.





# From all Departments

## MOSTLY PERSONAL

### Blown and Pressed

The Warehouse extends a warm welcome to Cissie Withers, Doreen Collins and June Gilbert who have joined the Lead Glass section and Walter Millwood who has started in the Vello Section.

Congratulations are offered to Joe Hadley and Stan Davies of the Vello Section on obtaining their certificate of competence on Staca Truck operation issued by the Industrial Safety Training Centre.

We are sorry that continued ill health has resulted in the retirement of Richard Forsyth and we express to him the sincere wish that his health will now improve to enable him and his wife to enjoy a long and happy life. Dick joined Chance Brothers in 1923. His father came to the Midlands from Sunderland to take up employment with us fifty-two years ago and he soon sent for his wife and children—eight sons and three daughters. Six sons found employment here and in the course of time these boys and their dependents resulted in a total of eighteen members of the family being employed with the Company. Dick was essentially a glass maker and for most of his time he was in the Blown and Pressed Division where he was, and is, respected for his knowledge and friendly disposition.

Just as we were about to go to press with this issue we learned with real joy that Dick had won £1,000 in a *Birmingham*

*Mail* "Place the Ball" competition and this picture of him and Mrs. Forsyth is reproduced by permission of the Editor of the *Birmingham Mail*—good show, Dick, as you really do deserve a run of good luck!

### Flat Glass

No personal news has been reported from the Flat Glass Division. This year the Division has arranged a different type of Christmas party and on January 27th the kiddies of employees will attend a circus in Birmingham.

### Glasgow

Arrangements are now complete for the Recreation Club Dinner Dance at the Dutch House and the children's Christmas Party.

We extend our best wishes to Helen Lockie on the announcement of her engagement.

When the Committee of the Firhill Glass Works Charity Fund meets this month to make the annual distribution to national and local charities, they will be adding to the total of £4,034 allocated from the contributions of approximately 150 employees at Glasgow Works during the twenty years to date.

### Laboratory

Mrs. Winifred Russell who has been Librarian since September 1947, will retire at the end of 1961. We shall miss a helpful and friendly person and wish her a well earned rest.

We congratulate Christine Garrington of the Chemistry section on her engagement to Clinton Sedgley who was, until last May, employed in the Physics laboratory.

### London

For our Christmas party this year London Office are joining forces with Mr. J. C. Perkins and a party from Selwyn House for a visit to the theatre to see the revue "One Over the Eight."



From all reports it is a good show and we are looking forward to the occasion.

### Malvern

At the time of going to press we regret to report we have five members of Malvern Works absent ill and we hope they will all soon be recovered and able to return to work. Our Annual Dinner and Social evening has been arranged for Saturday, 6th January, at the Abbey Hotel, Malvern, and everyone is looking forward to this occasion. Congratulations are extended to Barbara Kokke, one of the youngest members of the staff, who has recently become engaged. Mrs. Hadley has had to go into a London hospital for treatment and we all hope she will soon be feeling better. We have been receiving very good reports of the progress of Mrs. Bellamy who now gets round the house without her crutches—we hope she will continue this good progress and that we will have her smiling face amongst us again very soon. We are profoundly sorry to learn that Mr. J. Kokke's father has died suddenly in his home town in Holland and express our sympathy to him and his family.

### Maintenance and Construction

The Millwrights congratulate Tony Smith and his wife Wendy on the birth of a daughter on 7th November. Wendy was employed until recently in the Vello Inspection Department.

It is with the deepest regret that we record the sudden death of Victor Hayward on 10th October at the age of 43.

Phil Burrows, who held the post of Electrical Engineer, left the Company on 17th November to accept an attractive post elsewhere and we wish a delightful fellow all success in his future.

Harry Severn, of the Fitting Shop, retired in October after twenty-five years' service. His work-mates presented him with an easy chair and we all hope that he will be able to recline in it for many years to come.



HARRY SEVERN

Ernest Hayfield of the Carpenters' Shop retired on 24th November after more than fifty years' service with the Company. In his earlier years he was a glass maker. We wish you well Ernest.



ERNEST HAYFIELD

### Old Hall

Work Study are pleased to welcome Suzanne Langshaw to their staff and hope that she will be happy working for us.

Pyrometry department consider it to have been a dull period brightened only by the fact that Roy Sturman has passed his driving test at the second attempt.

### Offices

The Accounts Department congratulates Carol Wain on her engagement to Brian Clarke.

Mrs. S. Blewitt is welcomed as a newcomer to the accounts department, Miss Margaret Jones and Mrs. D. White to the Wages Office and Mrs. E. Stamps to Rolled Plate despatch.

It is with regret that we report that Mrs. M. Crozier, who was employed in the Invoice section, died on 21st October and that Mr. Raymond J. Horwood, Purchase Accounts, passed away on 7th October. Sympathy is expressed to their families.

Jack Gray, of Traffic Office, retired on 10th November and we wish him every happiness in his future. Jack first came to Chance Brothers early in 1937 for a position in the Lighthouse Works. He had a transfer to Traffic in 1956.

Sales Office offers congratulations to Doug. Curry—the old Rugger Veteran who has been recalled to the Midland Counties Championship side after many seasons in the wilderness.

Johnny Price must now know London blind-fold but whispers are afoot and growing as to what he may be up to in the "Big City." He requires no guidance in some respects.

Mr. Van Beek was given a good "send off" to his South American tour when toasts were drunk to each of the various countries he was scheduled to visit. On these names running out before the evening was half spent, it was suggested that the toasts be then made to both his arrival and departure from each town and this was done to the satisfaction of all.





## CHANGING FADS AND PASTIMES

by JOHN BAKER WHITE

HOW much longer will the Bingo craze last? On the law of averages the house-wife's time-waster will be on its way out by the end of the summer of 1962. Indeed, some of the "wide-boys," the shrewd far-seeing men who lease space on the big permanent fairgrounds, are already looking for another "money-spinner."

This craze for a particular fad, sport, or form of gambling is nothing new in Britain. Though it did not involve a great deal of money or high-pressure gambling, a darts craze swept Britain between the wars, and the brewer, publican or club proprietor who did not supply up-to-date facilities for the game soon lost business. Quite quickly the craze died away and darts became what it is today, an ancillary to social drinking.

Much earlier, forty years ago or more, it was the pigeon-fancier with his racing birds who was in the news, though this sport, like whippet racing, was more popular in the North than in the South. Carrying and releasing baskets of pigeons was quite an important source of revenue for the railways. Today, outside the mining areas, the number of pigeon lofts is comparatively small.

The foreunner of the Bingo sessions was the large-scale whist drives, run by professional promoters and offering quite large top prizes. Between the wars billiards had a large and solid following, and Joe Davis's breaks at Thurston's in Leicester Square were stop press news.

Among the odd pastimes that have spread across Britain in my lifetime, only to vanish quickly, was Diabolo. With two wands connected by a string one threw as high as possible into the air a small double cone of light metal. The skill lay in catching it on the string as it came down, keeping it on the spin

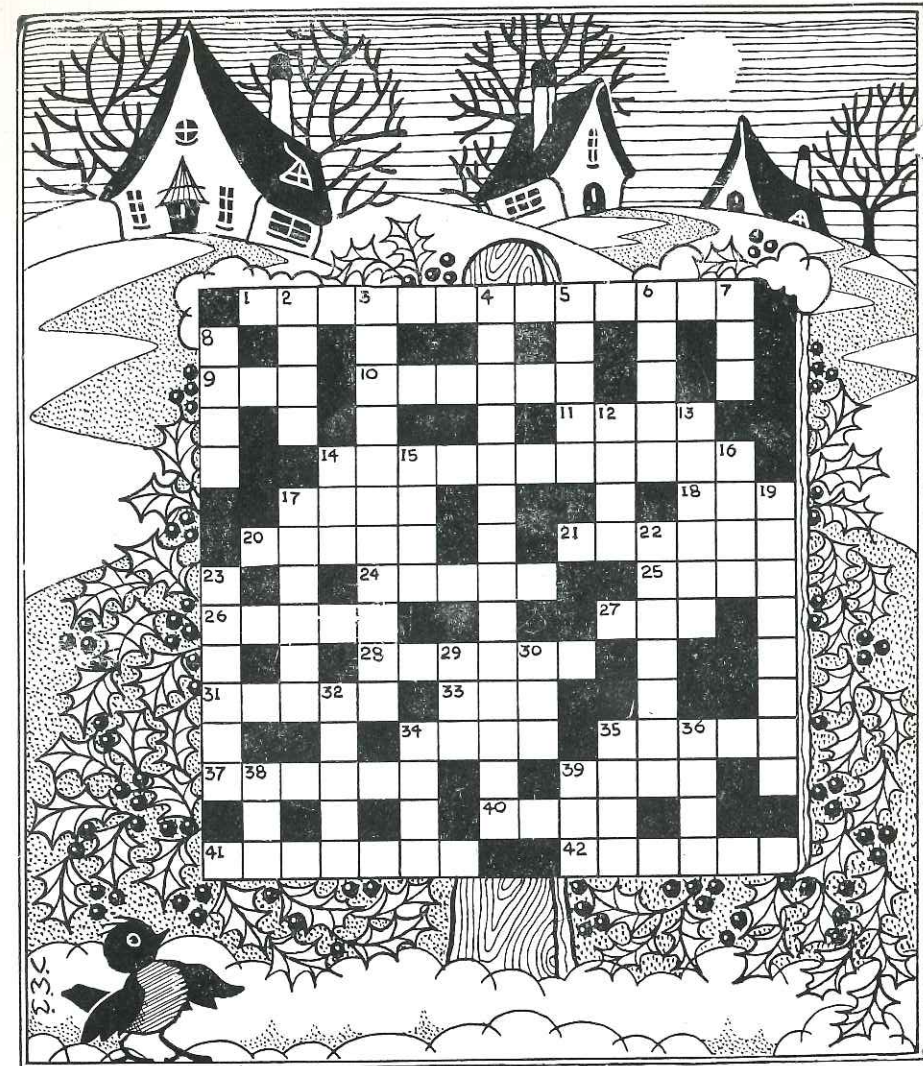
and then throwing it up again. It was much more difficult than it sounds.

Pogo, too, had a short life. This device consisted of a chin-high rod with a spring inside it and two foot-rests. One had to mount it and then proceed as far as possible in short jumps. This modern speed age demands the greater thrill of Go-Kart racing, which probably has not yet reached its zenith in Britain.

To the young jazz fans of today the Swanee Whistle is an unknown instrument but once no band, and no school, was without its wail. It went out at about the same time as Larry Adler put the mouth-organ on the map, to be followed in quick succession by saws played like violins, wash boards as drums, and now the sawn-off oil-drum, which, I suspect, is already losing its popularity. Incidentally, the "the dansant," so popular in the 20's, is said to be making a come-back.

To return to Bingo, the plain fact is that we are a nation of gamblers and this game has given many housewives the first chance of their lives in "having a bit on." Statistically, the number of women who do the pools on their own is comparatively small, though many help their husbands. In all probability someone, somewhere, in a small back-room is thinking up some new popular gambling game that will not try the purse or the brain too high, while conforming with the new gambling laws.

A new fad or pastime is always just round the corner, just as is a new style in dress. Those older people who laugh at the coffee-bar cowboys in leather jackets, "Teds" in skin-tight trousers and pointed shoes, or girls in jeans, should think back to the days when they themselves were wearing Oxford Bags, plus-fours like tweed jelly-bags, check caps with outsize peaks, or the knee-hobbling skirts of the Charleston era.



## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Note: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required.

### Clues:

Across:—1, 9, 10. A Merry Christmas to you! (11.2.3.6); 11. You will need the crackers for them (4); 14. Scene of Christmas festivities in Pickwick Papers (7.4); 17. "Bring me flesh and bring me....." (4); 18. A good listener (3); 20. Latin-American dance (5); 21. Belonging to the mountains (6); 24. Hunter of the night sky (5); 25. Arm this don for the final battle (4); 26. Christmas entertainment (5); 27. Wednesday's tree? (3); 28. The sound of a young carol-singer? (6); 31. Pond plant (5); 33. Card game (3); 34. Pleased with himself? (4); 35. Well-known mother of 26 (5); 37. "..... night, 40 night" (6); 39. Sally was always a good target (4); 40. See 37 (4); 41. Not much for the busy housewife at Christmas! (7); 42. Companion (6).

Down:—2. "They found Him in a manger Where ..... feed on hay" (God Rest You

Merry, Gentlemen) (4); 3. Feline in footwear, a Christmas favourite (4.2.5); 4. Christmas song and decoration (9.5); 5. "Wilt thou at .....s tomb meet me straightway?" (Midsummer Night's Dream) (5); 6. Members of this club are much richer at Christmas (5); 7. What the Christmas geese are getting? (3); 8. Commotion in chokey? (4); 12. A freehold estate (4); 13. Christmas transport? (6); 14. "Earth's joys grow....." (Abide With Me) (3); 15. In proximity to parsimony? (4); 16. A road through the planet (4); 17. One of the Christmas 11 (6); 19. Our Saviour and ..... (8); 22. .... His death (7); 23. They will be prominent among the Christmas fruit (6); 29. Treacherous tree (3); 30. Provides the Yule-tide bonfire (3); 32. Make them pay! (5); 34. Bethlehem had one (4); 35. They had their dolls (4); 36. Bottom dead centre (4); 38. An essential for winter skating (3); 39. Alcoholic drink (3).

Solutions on Back Cover